

Muscogee Nation News

Mvskoke Media production

The official tribal newspaper of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Petition to remove Tiger misses deadline

Principal chief, petitioners share views on outcome

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizens calling for the impeachment of Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger failed to submit the petition for removal by a deadline set for May 18 at 5 p.m.

Petition filer Shelly Brandy-Harjo and supporters known as the Creek Movement held a press conference that evening at the Best Western Hotel in Okmulgee.

Brandy-Harjo announced that the petition did not receive enough signatures in time.

“We have been working diligently to count all of the petitions and as of today, there were still petitions coming after the deadline. It has been a long, hard road but with all of our hard work, we fell a few short,” Brandy-Harjo said.

Brandy-Harjo stated that the petition did not reach the required signatures, which amounted to 3,290 as told to her by the MCN Election Board.

She said that given the shortfall, it was not worth risking the exposure of some who signed by



Amanda Rutland/MNN

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger (left) and the Creek Movement organization (right) held separate press conferences in response to the outcome of a petition to impeach Tiger

turning it in.

“I did not turn in the petition to protect the citizens and the tribal employees.

It has been hard when our principal chief intimidates and threatens our citizens,” Brandy-Harjo said.

In response to the failed petition, Tiger held a news conference May 19 at the Executive Building on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

“I believe the small group that was behind the petition, even though they didn’t garner enough signatures, have a right to be able

to do that,” Tiger said.

Tiger said he has not threatened any interruption of tribal assistance to employees or citizens.

“Because we have laws and policies that are not only mandated by the federal government, but our own tribal laws that allows their qualifcants to receive services without any political ramifications,” Tiger said.

CM Co-Chairman Judd Pickering is asking the MCN National Council to continue investigations into the current

administration.

“We ask the National Council tonight to continue to hold the principal chief accountable to the facts stated in their no confidence [legislation]. We ask that the National Council exhaust all options in investigating the current administration,” Pickering said.

The Council passed ‘No Confidence’ legislation to request Tiger’s resignation during a March 19 emergency session at the Mound Building on the MCN

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Muscogee (Creek) citizen wounded by security guard

Family holds protest contesting decision not to prosecute

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator
Sterling Cospert/Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The forecast called for rain May 7, as protestors with umbrellas lined S. Denver Avenue near downtown Tulsa.

“Justice for Monroe,” Mount Calvary Miracle Temple Apostolic Church of Okmulgee Pastor Johnny Magness chanted, “Right now,” the crowd responded.

Johnny Magness is the stepfather to Muscogee (Creek) citizen Monroe Bird III (21), who was shot Feb. 4, following an encounter with security guard Ricky Stone at the Deerfield Estates Apartment Complex in Tulsa.

Bird, who is also African American, is now quadriplegic — paralyzed from the neck down.



Sterling Cospert/MNN

Johnny Magness, stepfather of Monroe Bird III leads a protest May 7 at the Tulsa County District Attorney Office in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

His family led supporters protesting Tulsa County District Attorney Steve Kunzweiler’s decision to not prosecute Stone for the incident.

“So that’s why we’re here...

he’s (Bird) incarcerated in his own body the rest of his life and the person who shot him should have to suffer something,” Johnny Magness said.

Kunzweiler said that the

evidence presented is insufficient to prove that Stone’s actions were criminal.

The family is represented by attorney Benjamin Crump, who represented the families of Trayvon Martin and Michael Brown in police involved shooting incidents in other states.

Family spokesperson Tezlyn Figaro said that Bird’s case differs from the others in that Bird is still alive.

“It’s so important that his voice is heard because he’s still alive,” Figaro said.

According to on the scene media coverage in the ‘Tulsa World’ and KOTV Channel 6, Bird was sitting inside his vehicle in the complex parking lot where his sister lives.

Stone knocked on the window and asked for identification for Bird and the 15-year-old white female in the vehicle with him.

According to Kunzweiler, Bird

Wounded - 4

June 1, 2015

Vol. 45, Issue 11

“Kvcohvse”
Blackberry Month



Candidate amendment veto override fails during Council session

Housing, CRD receive funding for community center repairs

Sterling Cospert/MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held May 16 at the Mound building on the MCN Tribal Complex in Okmulgee.

The Council started by voting to override a veto on:

- NCA 15-025 Amending MCN Code Annotated, Title 19, Section 5-102 titled, ‘Candidate must be registered and take leave from employment with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.’ Rep. Frank Coachman sponsored the amendment.

Tribal employees seeking to run for MCN political office must take leave from their positions during the campaign period. The legislation would allow said employees to use their available paid annual and personal leave during this time.

According to the MCN Election Board’s attorney Klint Cowan, his opinion is that the board’s intentions with this legislation were different than that of the bill’s sponsor.

“The representatives who sponsored it just didn’t think that it was fair that employees of the tribe had to basically resign or take leave without pay in order to register and run as a candidate,” Cowan said.

Cowan said that the board wanted another MCN entity to be legally responsible for ensuring that MCN employees who registered as candidates took the leave required (MCN Code Annotated, Title 19, Section 5-102: ‘leave without pay’) upon registering.

“So we just wanted that section taken out of the election code. So we supported it being deleted because that would make it easier for us but we’d also be fine with just moving it

Council - 8



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MEMBERS OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION

MCN hosts second annual ‘Day’ at the Capitol



Darren DeLaune/MNN

Entities from throughout the Muscogee (Creek) Nation jurisdiction came May 14 to the Oklahoma State Capitol to share MCN culture and the services offered by the Nation.

Departments, programs represent Nation in OKC

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma State Capitol welcomed the Muscogee (Creek) Nation May 14 to help educate the public about the tribe. "This is the second consecutive year that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has been asked to come to the Oklahoma State Capitol to share information about our great Mvskoke Nation, our people and culture," MCN Principal Chief George Tiger said. The event also featured MCN services. "We are proud to be in

the state capitol representing our people and to have so many of our tribal programs and departments present." MCN Second Chief Louis Hicks was on-hand to speak to MCN participants as well as guests who made their way around the informational booths. "This allows the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to come here to the heart of Oklahoma and display all of the services we have to offer for our citizens, and showcase all of the new resources," Hicks said. "Not only does this event allow our Nation to educate people about the services all our departments have to offer, it also raises awareness on tribal news." Hicks spoke of the importance of having 'MCN

Day' at the Capitol. "We are continuously as a tribe growing and providing," Hicks said. "Whether it is new elderly housing, new scholarships or new health clinics, we are constantly as a tribe expanding and are excited to share the news to those who might not know these services are being provided to them." Hicks said he is very happy that the relationship between the two governments helped make this event happen. "I am very proud that both state and tribal leaders can come together and share in common goal of educating reaching out to a community to better provide and help their citizens," Hicks said.

MCN welcomes Native business conference to Tulsa



Amanda Rutland/MNN

Cultural tourism panelists discuss sharing culture and its effect on local economies and small business owners during the Trading on the River Conference May 5 at River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa, Okla.

ONABEN promotes discussion on cultural tourism

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

TULSA, Okla. — Native Americans from across the United States gathered May 5-6 to discuss economic development and 'Indianpreneurship' during the 13th annual Trading on the River conference at River Spirit Event Center in Tulsa. The event is put on by Our Native American Business Network, which is a non-profit organization based out of Oregon. "ONABEN spends a lot of teaching entrepreneurs that they need to grow their business and we as ONABEN, it's time to grow our business and get out into Indian Country," ONABEN Board Chairman Jack Lenox said. Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief spoke at the opening ceremony. "We have come a long way as Indian people. We are honored to have you choose Muscogee (Creek) Nation as the first stop outside of the Northwest," Tiger said. The conference included panels on topics such as growing home-based businesses,

the impact of tribal governmental economic growth on small Native-owned businesses and cultural tourism. Chickasaw Nation Tourism Director Paige Williams explained cultural tourism as, "The full range of experiences that visitors can undertake to understand what makes a destination distinctive: its lifestyles, its heritage, its art, its people." According to Williams, tourism allows tribal governments to increase economic development to fund services for citizens. Williams used her employer Chickasaw Nation as an example. According to Williams, Chickasaw Nation did not promote itself as destination until the infrastructure was complete to ensure a positive experience, although some specific entities self-promoted up until that point. Williams encouraged tribes to partner with the local communities within their respective jurisdictions to create a cohesive brand. The Five Civilized Tribes have partnered to develop a tribal brand for the state titled OK Native Travel. "We recognize the fact that when people visit Oklaho-

ma, one of their primary reasons for visiting Oklahoma is for culture," Williams said. "One thing we elected to do in promotion is we elected to not promote any gaming." Williams explained that the OK Native Travel campaign aims to showcase the similarities and differences between the tribes. The campaign website: www.OKNativeTravel.com, contains a video and links to the tourism pages of each FCT. MCN Tourism and Recreation Department Director Will Lowe explained that TR was initially developed to plan the annual MCN Festival and evolved into being, "traffic drivers...marketing, anything and everything Muscogee (Creek)." TR is participating in the Okmulgee community assessment along with other local entities such as the Okmulgee Main Street Association and the City of Okmulgee to promote tourism in the MCN capitol city. "This being the MCN Capitol, what benefits the community also benefits the Nation," Lowe said. "We're excited to partner with community businesses and entities to make Okmulgee a better place."

PETITION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Tribal Complex. Council Speaker Thomas Yahola said they voted on the issue after receiving concerns from citizens. "The way this started, it was the article in the Sunday 'Tulsa World' and we had a lot of calls at this office and Council representatives from citizens about the article and their embarrassment," Yahola said. The March 8 article called into question the legality of a business deal between Tiger and the Kialegee Tribal Town regarding a proposed Kialegee run casino in Broken Arrow. The deal raised concerns regarding the possibility of competition with MCN gaming and a potential conflict of interest through Tiger's involvement with it, in reference to the timing of his election to MCN political office. "If there was any inkling of wrong-doing according to the Constitution, which I took an oath to uphold, I would not make a decision last week to seek re-election for this highest office of Muscogee (Creek) Nation," Tiger said. Tiger went on to say he believes the petition was never a scandal. "There was never a controversy or issue with the Muscogee people. It was in the media and it was expanded upon by my political opponents, not the citizens," Tiger said. Brandy-Harjo does not feel the petition was for political gain. "None of us are running for office. So how is it a political move?" Brandy-Harjo said. The petition was filed with the Election Board March 17 and CM was given 60 days to collect signatures. Because the deadline was during the weekend, the board moved it to Monday, May 18. The attention of both sides has turned to the upcoming officer elections. The Creek Movement encouraged citizens to exercise their right to vote and said they will endorse other candidates. According to the MCN Constitution Article VIII: "A signed petition showing cause of removal containing twenty (20) percent of the registered voters of The Muscogee (Creek) Nation shall be cause to consider removal of the Principal Chief, Second Chief, and/or any member of the Supreme Court. A three-fourths (3/4) vote of the National Council shall be required for the removal from office." The candidate-filing period for the upcoming election is July 21-23. If a candidate fails to receive 50 percent of the vote during the Sept. 19 primaries, a general election will be held Nov. 7.

Educational robotics program comes to MCN

Botball provides hands-on training

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation in collaboration with the KISS Institute for Practical Robotics hosted the inaugural MCN Junior Botball Challenge May 9 at the Mvskoke Dome building in Okmulgee.

Participants showed off their science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) knowledge by programming robots to perform a series of tasks.

“I think it’s amazing that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation has the foresight to put the Junior Botball Challenge in their schools, as they know STEM jobs are so important,” said KISS Institute for Practical Robotics STEM Specialist Carol Goodgame.

According to the website, the Junior Botball Challenge is a sustainable program that provides reusable equipment, software, standards-aligned curriculum and professional development opportunities to teach elementary students code writing and cover engineering design standards.

“Botball was presented at a conference last summer that I attended,” MCN National Council Rep. Dode Barnett said. “I came back and talked to Dr. Johnson, we had an initial meeting with the botball



Chelsie Rich/MNN
Henryetta Elementary School third grade teacher Ashley Corn helps a student May 9 during the inaugural Muscogee (Creek) Nation Junior Botball Challenge at the Mvskoke Dome building in Okmulgee, Okla.

folks and decided it was something we wanted to bring to the Nation.”

The Council approved \$94,353 to implement the program as administered by the MCN Department of Education and Training.

With the funds, MCN sponsored 40 teams throughout the MCN jurisdiction, targeting fifth graders.

MCN required sponsored teams to have 75 percent Native American participation, and 50 percent female participation.

The participants were comprised of 300 students, from 77 teams and 18 schools.

“Today there are eight challenges, our curriculum has 17 and counting but today the students will try to complete eight of them,” Goodgame said.

The challenges range from having the robot touch a can, go around the can, building bulldozer like attachments to collect the cans and more.

The teams competed against the challenges rather than each other. Teams members are given a button when they complete a challenge.

Teams that complete all the challenges are given a trophy.

Henryetta Elementary School third grade teacher Ashley Corn shared her thoughts about Botball.

“We’ve only been in Botball for about a month now... it’s been a great learning experience for our kids,” Corn said.

Henryetta’s teams consisted of fourth and fifth grade students.

“They got to see other schools doing challenges and doing challenges that we have yet to learn,” Corn said. “We thank the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for having us. It’s been an awesome day.”

For more information visit: www.juniorbotballchallenge.org.

Event held to raise teen pregnancy awareness

MCN supports cause through proclamation

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Mvskoke Nation Youth Services hosted a teen pregnancy awareness event May 6 at the College of the Muscogee Nation campus in Okmulgee.

“We want to give tips on how parents and teens can discuss these taboo subjects.

“A lot of people believe that kids aren’t having sex but in reality they are.

“So we want to help them to be able to talk about it and get that out in the open to prepare our youth to making the right decisions,” MNYS Director Nancy Mason said.

According a proclamation by Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger declaring this date as the National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy for MCN, the State of Oklahoma is currently ranked fourth in the United States for teen pregnancies.

The proclamation states that although rates have gone down across the country, Native American youth experience more teen pregnancy compared to the overall population.

Attendees of the awareness event were invited to take the National Day Quiz on the importance of teen pregnancy prevention.

“This quiz give them a better understanding and delivers important messages for teenagers,” Mason said.

Resource booths sponsored by various MCN entities and from others throughout the tribal jurisdiction were on-hand to give out their information to the public.

One of the sponsors was Planned Parenthood of the Heartland, which started a movement called ‘I’m Committed.’

“With committing to yourself for the betterment of you, you are making the decisions and the right choices for a better future.

“When you aren’t aware or do not make the right choices, unfortunate things can happen such as unplanned pregnancies or contacting an STD,” PPH Title X Family Planning Program Director Melonie Mayes-Tyler said.

One individual, who was a teen mother and wished to remain anonymous, explained her situation when she was pregnant.

“It was very tough, being a mother and a student.

“At first, I wanted to stop going to school and focus on my baby but fortunately I had help from my family. I know a lot of young mothers do not have that and they do have to drop out of school and for some of them, it is hard to finish and get your diploma,” she said.

Day Center hosts annual charity softball game



Darren DeLaune/MNN
Muscogee (Creek) citizen and ‘Native News Today’ Multimedia Supervisor Jason Salsman prepares to swing during the Home Run for the Homeless celebrity benefit softball game held May 12 at ONEOK Field in Tulsa, Okla., by the Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless.

‘Native News Today’ host plays for less fortunate

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless held the ninth annual Home Run for the Homeless celebrity benefit softball game May 12 at ONEOK Field in Tulsa.

According to their website, the Day Center is the only daytime shelter for the homeless in the city.

“We are a shelter but we are so much more than that,” Day Center Executive Director Sandra Lewis said. “We work diligently everyday to get folks off the streets and get them into homes.”

The game brings celebrity participants from media outlets that serve northeastern Oklahoma and is between the ‘TV Team’ and ‘Radio/Writer Team.’

Muscogee (Creek) citizen and ‘Native News Today’ Multimedia Supervisor Jason Salsman played for the ‘TV Team.’

“It is wonderful to play in the game,” Salsman said. “We get to play in a great setting and we are raising money for the Tulsa Day Center and to help out the homeless.”

Salsman feels that playing in the game can bring awareness to the Native American homeless population.

“If they watch ‘Native News Today’ and see me out here with a great group of people raising money for the homeless, then we are doing our jobs,” Salsman said.

This is Salsman’s fourth year participating and this year he was selected as Most Valuable Player.

Salsman went 2-2 with a double and single, scoring both times and helping pull out a 3-2 victory for ‘TV Team.’

“I had a great time,” Salsman said. “I love to play softball and have always played. When the opportunity arose, I knew I wanted to play in this game.”

The Day Center mission is to provide a safe and healthy environment for people who are homeless and offer them opportunities and encouragement for achieving self-sufficiency.

The center is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

“We are housing one person a day every year,” Lewis said. “So that is our goal is to move people out of homelessness as quickly as possible and get them into homes.”

MCN holds fourth annual Senior Games



Darren DeLaune/MNN
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Joyce Lee practicing her throw for the bean bag toss May 8 during the fourth annual Senior Games.

Athletes come out for day of fun, competition

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The 2015 Muscogee (Creek) Nation Senior Games were held May 8 at the Claude A. Cox Omniplex in Okmulgee for Muscogee (Creek) citizens ages 55 and older.

The day opened with registration and a welcoming address from MCN Principal Chief George Tiger.

“I look forward to everyone having a great time,” Tiger said. “This is a great event and I know that we have some people here who are ready to compete.”

After Tiger spoke to the

competitors, they were able to break out into a networking session and meet with some vendors from various MCN and external entities.

The event featured a fitness walk and Zumba class as a warm up.

“I believe the Senior Games is very important for the participants,” MCN Senior Services Acting Manager Steven Wahnee said. “They all can get together but overall it is great exercise.”

Wahnee said some of the elders do not like to get out and therefore get little exercise.

“We want them to rejuvenate themselves and to get reacquainted with friends they might not have seen in a while,” Wahnee said.

MCN Senior Services Secretary Christy Carson is happy with the collaborative effort put

forth by event organizers.

“There are three departments who work in this together and we could not have done it without them,” Carson said. “We each play a role in making these games move forward and with all departments getting together, it makes the games so much better.”

After lunch, the competitors split up for various activities.

“We divided up the groups for both men and women this year,” Wahnee said. “This year, we have it from 55 to 65-years-of-age and 66 on up for the divisions.”

Wahnee said that the athletes’ drive remains despite their age and although bad weather from the previous day dampened the ground, it did not dampen their spirits.

“It does get pretty intense with the game,” Wahnee said. “They have been competitors and will always be competitors.”

The games were: free throw contest, horseshoes, bean bag toss, softball throw and jacks.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Joyce Lee recently moved back to the MCN jurisdiction and heard about the event through word-of-mouth.

“I signed up for a couple of games and to see how I do,” Lee said.

Although Lee did not place in her events, she brought back something she feels is a lot better, new friends and memories.

“Just look at the smiles on everyone’s faces,” Lee said. “I am glad I met a lot of people today and the new friendships I made. We may be up there in age, but we are still trying and we are still competing and it shows here at the games.”

Rock Creek Bar - Table Games - Electronic Games



This facility is regulated by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Public Gaming

JUNE 20TH

SUMMERTIME

FunTime

NOON - 5:00PM

\$5 Match Play for every Diamond Club Member

Hot Seat Blitz Free Play Drawings

Ten (10) \$10 Free Play Hot Seat Drawings at the Main Casino or Travel Plaza every 30 minutes from NOON - 5:00PM.

Players CAN win more than once!

Grill Giveaways

Diamond Club players who earn 500 points receive a complimentary portable grill and cooler set.



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**To Native American Farmers or Ranchers
or the heir of one who was denied a USDA farm loan
or loan servicing between 1981 and late 1999**

Some funds paid in settlement of *Keepseagle v. Vilsack* remain unclaimed and will be distributed in accordance with a process established by the Court. The case claimed that USDA discriminated against Native Americans who applied for or tried to apply for farm loans or loan servicing. The Court seeks input from class members about how the remaining funds should be distributed. Of the \$680 million paid to settle the case, approximately \$380 million remains. The Settlement Agreement approved by the Court directs that unclaimed funds be given to non-profit organizations to serve Native American farmers and ranchers.

The deadline to file a claim has passed. **There is no new claims process.**

Who is included?

The Class *includes* all Native American farmers and ranchers who:

- Farmed or ranched or attempted to do so between January 1, 1981 and November 24, 1999;
- Tried to get a farm loan or loan servicing from the USDA during that period; and
- Complained about discrimination to the USDA either on their own or through a representative during the time period.

The class *does not include* individuals who:

- Experienced discrimination only between January 1 and November 23 1997; or
- Complained of discrimination only between July 1 and November 23, 1997.

Proposed use of the Funds

There are several competing options for how to distribute the funds.

First, Plaintiffs propose to modify the Settlement Agreement, subject to Court approval, to distribute the funds as follows:

- \$342 million distributed by a Trust, overseen by Native American leaders, to non-profit groups to serve Native farmers & ranchers over a 20 year period.
- \$38 million be distributed quickly to non-profit organizations serving Native farmers & ranchers, identified by Class Counsel and approved by the Court.

The Trust would make grants to organizations providing business assistance, agricultural education, technical support, or advocacy services to Native American farmers and ranchers, including those seeking to become farmers or ranchers, to support and promote their continued engagement in agriculture. The USDA has agreed with this proposal.

Second, Marilyn Keepseagle proposes to distribute all remaining funds as additional damages paid to successful Track A claimants alone. The USDA opposes this proposal.

Third, other class members have asked to use the funds to pay claims that were initially denied or to permit new claims to be filed.

Fourth, the Choctaw Nation has argued that no changes should be made.

How can I share my views?

If you want to tell the Court of your support of or opposition to any proposal for use of the remaining funds, you may submit written comments, postmarked no later than **June 15, 2015**, to:

Chambers of the Honorable Emmet G. Sullivan
U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia
333 Constitution Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20001

The Court will hold a hearing on **June 29, 2015 at 9:00 AM EDT** in Courtroom 24A at the address above. If you want to speak to the Court in person, you may attend the hearing. Your written comments will be considered by the Court even if you do not attend the hearing.

**For more detailed information call 1-888-233-5506 or see
www.IndianFarmClass.com**

COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to ‘tribal government’ or some other part of the code where we’re not the ones who have to enforce it,” Cowan said.

The override failed 4-12 with Reps. Joyce Deere, David Hill, Robert Hufft, James Jennings, David Nichols, Darrell Proctor, Mark Randolph, Lucian Tiger, Shirlene Ade, Dode Barnett, Pete Beaver and Thomas Yahola voting against it.

Afterwards, the Council addressed the following legislation:

- NCR 15-003 Selecting Dr. Michael Hughes to serve on the Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise board of directors. Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- The legislation cites that per MCN law, two members of the MNBE board must be selected by the Council.
- Furthermore, that those selected must have a bachelor’s degree plus five years of business management experience or executive management experience including but not limited to, CFO, CEO and COO or an advanced degree plus nine years of business management experience and that Hughes, a Muscogee (Creek) citizen meets these requirements.
- The term is set to end April 30, 2018.
- NCR 15-004 Selecting James K. Byrd to serve on the Muscogee Nation Business LLC board of directors. Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- The legislation cites that by MCN law, two members of the MNB LLC board must be selected by the Council.
- Furthermore, that those selected must have a bachelor’s degree plus five years of business management experience or executive management experience including but not limited to, CFO, CEO and COO or an advanced degree plus nine years of business management experience and that Byrd meets these requirements.
- The term is set to end Jan. 31, 2018.
- NCR 15-005 Selecting Hughes to serve on the MNB LLC board of directors. Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0. Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- The requirements cited are the same as NCR 15-004 and the legislation states that Hughes meets them.
- The term is set to end April 30, 2018.
- TR 15-069 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a contract for the purchase of property located in Okmulgee County. Tiger sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- The legislation states that MCN has the opportunity to purchase property north of and across the street from the MCN Council House that will allow for the development of: an MCN Cultural Center and Archives visitor center, department offices and archive storage space.
- It states that CCA has the funds to purchase the property and authorizes the principal chief to apply to put it in trust.
- TR 15-071 Approving the MCN long-range transportation plan with the addition of the routes identified in the plan. Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- The legislation states that MCN has completed and adopted said long-range plan in accordance with federal regulation 25 CFR Part 170, which can be viewed here: [www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title25/25cfr170_main_02.tpl)

[ecfrbrowse/Title25/25cfr170_main_02.tpl](http://www.ecfrbrowse/Title25/25cfr170_main_02.tpl).

It states that new routes have been identified within the MCN jurisdiction that are eligible to be included in the MCN’s Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Transportation Program inventory.

According to the U.S. Federal Highways Administration, a LRTP is a document resulting from regional or statewide collaboration and consensus on a region or state’s transportation system, and serving as the defining vision for the region’s or state’s transportation systems and services.

In metropolitan areas, the plan indicates all of the transportation improvements scheduled for funding over the next 20 years.

- TR 15-072 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between MCN and the City of Morris for the maintenance of roadways/bridges and associated rights-of-ways constructed or improved by MCN TTP. Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- The legislation states that TTP has the funds available to improve roadways/bridges in the area designated as Indian reservation roads and has several projects proposed in its inventory. It also states that MCN and the city have an agreement that if the tribe constructs said roads in the area, that it is responsible for maintaining them.
- TR 15-073 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between MCN and the City of Wetumka for the maintenance of roadways/bridges and associated rights-of-ways constructed or improved by MCN TTP. Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- The legislation reads the same as the previous as applied to this specific area and its projects.
- TR 15-074 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between MCN and Okmulgee County for the maintenance of roadways/bridges and associated rights-of-ways constructed or improved by MCN TTP. Proctor sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- The legislation reads the same as the previous two as applied to this specific are and its projects.
- TR 15-075 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between MCN and the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Oklahoma. Coachman sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- The legislation states that the Nation and the U.S. District wish to enter the agreement to govern the terms and conditions surrounding the appointment of a tribal special assistant U.S. attorney that will be dedicated to the prosecution of crimes in Indian Country.
- Furthermore, that the MCN Office of the Attorney General has recommended that Tribal Prosecutor Shelly Harrison serve as SAUSA to enable the prosecutor to prosecute crimes against MCN in either tribal or U.S. District Court in accordance with the agreement.
- Finally, that the agreement will benefit the Nation by providing additional federal assistance for the prosecution of offenses affecting MCN.
- TR 15-076 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a service agreement on behalf of the MCN Department of Health with Midwest Hospitalists PLLC. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- The legislation states that MCNDH wishes to enter into an agreement with the service and that the MCN Constitution allows the Council to approve such

an agreement.

According to www.allina-health.org, Midwest Internal Medicine Hospitalists works in partnership with the patient’s primary physician to provide them with an added level of continuous care.

- TR 15-078 Authorizing the principal chief to execute licensing agreements on behalf of the MCN Historic and Cultural Preservation Department and the Arkansas Archeological Survey, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Texas Historical Commission and the Kansas Historical Society. Rep. Mitch Jack sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- The legislation states that the department desires to register for access to various historical and archaeological departments with certain states in order to gain access to research data.
- It also states that it is in the best interest of MCN to monitor activities within these subject sates for potential impact on Muscogee (Creek) cultural, historical and archaeological sites.
- TR 15-079 Authorizing the principal chief to apply for federal funding through the Tiger Discretionary Grant to fund a regional bridge reconstruction project. Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- The legislation states that TTP has identified the need for reconstructing deficient and hazardous bridges throughout the Nation’s jurisdiction and that the program has coordinated with county commissioners who have submitted projects from their area to have this service provided.
- It also states that TTP would prepare the plans, specifications, estimates and environmental assessments as well as manages the construction of each project.
- An explanation of the TIGER grant can be viewed here: www.dot.gov/tiger/about.
- TR 15-080 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of understanding between the MCN and 10 separate Oklahoma counties for the maintenance of bridges and associated rights-of-ways reconstructed or improved by the MCN TTP. Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- The legislation states that MCN TTP has the funds available to reconstruct or improve various public bridges in Creek, Hughes, Mayes, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Rogers, Tulsa and Wagoner Counties.
- It also states that the counties agree to maintain the bridges if the Nation provides said services.
- TR 15-081 Confirming the re-nomination of Hughes to serve on the Muscogee International LLC board of directors. Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- The legislation states that Hughes’ term expired and that the Council approves his re-nomination by the principal chief. The new term is set to expire May 31, 2018.
- More information about the organization can be viewed here: <http://muscogeeinternational.com/about-us/>.
- TR 15-082 Confirming the re-nomination of John Freeman to serve on the Muscogee International LLC board of directors. Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- The legislation states that Freeman’s term expired and that the Council approves his re-nomination by the principal chief. The new term is set to expire May 31, 2018.
- TR 15-083 Confirming the nomination of Byrd to serve on the Muscogee International LLC board of directors. Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- The legislation states that the principal chief nominated Byrd to fill a vacancy on the board

and that the nomination requires confirmation by the Council. The term will expire May 31, 2018.

- TR 15-085 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a clinical rotation agreement between the MCN and Southwestern Oklahoma State University College of Pharmacy for MCNDH. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- The legislation states that MCNDH seeks approval to enter into the agreement in order to provide better services to patients.
- TR 15-086 Authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board to execute a fire protection and automatic response agreement with the City of Tulsa. Hufft and Hill sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- The legislation states that GOAB needs Council approval to renew a one-year contract with the city for these services to be available for River Sprit Casino.
- TR 15-087 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a lease purchase agreement with Univest Capital Inc. on behalf of MCNDH. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- The resolution states that MCNDH requires certain medical equipment to sustain their routine operations and that this company provides said equipment though a lease-purchase agreement.
- More details about these agreements can be viewed here: www.univestcapitalinc.com/who-we-finance/our-lease-programs/.
- TR 15-088 Authorizing improvements to real property for the operation and administration of MCNDH. Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- The legislation states that said improvements are needed for several properties purchased by MCNDH before they are fit for use as administrative offices. It also states that these improvements will be made with oversight from the MCN Tribal Construction Department and paid for by available MCNDH funds.
- TR 15-089 Authorizing the construction of a community center for the Okemah Indian Community. Jack, Ade and Coachman sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- The legislation states that the community needs approval to construct a new center, which is necessary in order for members to conduct meetings and receives services and that \$855,250 was appropriated through NCA 13-172 in July 2013 for the construction of said center.
- TR 15-090 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a strategic technical assistance response team program non-disclosure agreement between the Nation and the Alliance for Sustainable Energy LLC for renewable energy project development assistance. Barnett sponsored the resolution, which passed 15-0.
- The legislation states that the MCN Reintegration Program needs approval to apply for a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs.
- It also states that RiP plans to make the construction of their new facility a green project by utilizing various energy efficient alternatives such as geothermal heating and cooling, Structural Insulated Panels, LED lighting and energy efficient windows.
- Finally, it states that the U.S. DOE offers the Strategic Technical Assistance Response Team Program in an effort to assist in the development of tribal renewable energy projects and that RiP needs approval to enter into an agreement with the Alliance for Sustainable Energy LLC as part of the application process for said program.
- NCA 15-085 Authorizing a

\$30,000 special appropriation to the Checotah Indian Community. Rep. Adam Jones sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that the money is to fund their fiscal year 2015 budget, which has been provided with specific line items and resolution. It also states that pursuant to MCN law, the community will be accountable for expenditures by providing receipts for all expenditures to the MCN Office of the Controller.

- NCA 15-086 Authorizing the expenditure of \$9,975.90 from the Native Languages of the Americas for the preservation of Muscogee (Creek) traditions through the Mvskoke Language Revitalization ‘Save our Language’ project. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- The legislation states that the Mvskoke Language Preservation Program has applied for the amount listed from Native Languages and that approval is needed to expend whatever amount is awarded.
- NCA 15-087 Authorizing the expenditure of \$49,100 in charitable contribution funds from Express Services Inc. for the MCN Head Start Program. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- The legislation states that the program has applied to Express Services Inc. Philanthropic Committee for a charitable contribution for the amount listed in order to purchase 12 smart boards, 12 basic laptops to be used at six Head Start centers.
- It also states that approval is needed to expend said funds if the grant is awarded and that the status of said grant is expected to be announced in June.
- NCA 15-088 Authorizing the expenditure of \$2,139 from the Endangered Language Fund for the preservation of Muscogee (Creek) traditions through the Mvskoke Language Revitalization ‘Save Our Language’ project. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- The Mvskoke Language Preservation Program has applied for the fund and requires approval to expend the funds if they are awarded to go towards the ‘Save Our Language’ project by hiring interviewers and purchasing equipment needed to record and document the language.
- NCA 15-089 Authorizing a \$5,000 donation to the United Tribes for Christ Fellowship. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- The legislation states that UTCF is requesting financial assistance from MCN for their annual camp meeting.
- NCA 15-090 Authorizing a \$250 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Beaver and Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0-1 with Rep. Johnnie Greene abstaining.
- The amendment states that 14-year-old Muscogee (Creek) citizen Perry Bartels requests financial assistance for a trip to Gulf Shores, Ala., to play in a baseball tournament with his team.
- NCA 15-091 Amending MCNCA, Title 35, Section 9-103 titled, ‘Special Appropriation Guidelines’ and 12-103, titled, ‘Donation Guidelines.’ Tiger sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.
- The legislation amends the existing law by adding that MCN Communities, which have economic developments, are required to provide their

Citizen signs with Carl Albert State College



Darren DeLaune/MNN
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Cynda Factor signs a letter of intent April 20 at Sasakwa High School in Sasakwa, Okla., to play basketball for Carl Albert State College in Poteau, Okla.

Factor wraps up high school career with All-State game

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

SASAKWA, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Cynda Factor has played basketball for as long as she can remember.

She said growing up, they had to play a sport at their school. “It didn’t matter what sport,” Factor said. “We just had to play in something.” Factor already played basketball and other sports at a young age so she was not forced into playing something that she did not like.

“I already knew how to play basketball,” Factor said. “I always loved basketball and getting to play with my friends was a lot of fun.” Her love for the sport has led Factor to a lot of success. She had a standout high school career playing for the Lady Vikings at Sasakwa High School. Factor has used that momentum to help pave the way to becoming one of the few selected for the Oklahoma All-State game that will be played 1 p.m., May 30 at Westmoore High School in Oklahoma City. “Being selected to play in the All-State game is the icing on the cake for my high school career,” Factor said. Basketball is not going to stop for Factor as she signed a letter of intent April 20 to play at Carl Albert State College in Poteau, Okla., where she will continue to be a Viking being that is CASC’s mascot also. “It was very nerve-wracking

but I felt a lot of weight was lifted off of my shoulders when I selected Carl Albert,” Factor said. Factor said there were other schools that were looking at her, but she felt that CASC is the best opportunity. “There were bigger schools that were looking at me,” Factor said. “They just did not want to give me the chance because I am from a smaller school.” Factor visited CASC for softball but at the time of that recruiting visit, she did not get to look at the campus. She said that when she went to visit for basketball, she liked the small town feel of the campus as well as Poteau. “It is a lot smaller than I expected it to be, but I feel more at home with a smaller environment,” Factor said. Factor’s coach Rikki Wolfe, feels that CASC is getting a great player and that she will be a great fit for her new school. “I am very happy for Cynda,” Wolfe said. “It could not have happened to a better kid and she is very deserving to continue to

play basketball at the next level.” Wolfe feels that Factor’s style of play will be a great addition to the CASC women’s basketball team. “It is going to be a huge transition for her,” Wolfe said. “I believe she will make the adjustments to succeed on the next level. She preferred a fast tempo style of playing so that will be a big help. Everything else will fall into place. Factor wants to major in physical therapy. “I have always been around sports,” Factor said. “I want to continue to be around sports for a long as I can so I feel that having my major in physical therapy will be best for me.” Factor is going to miss high school basketball but she is ready to continue her playing and education at CASC. “I am going to miss my friends, being on the team with them and my family has always been there to watch me play,” Factor said. Factor’s parents are Sharon Yargee and George Factor and she is a member of the Eco (Deer) Clan.

COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

most recent financial information upon requesting a special appropriation and that waiver of this title may only be made by a two-thirds vote from the full Council.

- NCA 15-092 Authorizing a \$28,744 special appropriation to the Glenpool Creek Indian Community for repairs and renovations. Tiger sponsored the amendment, which was postponed for one month.

The legislation states that GCIC received a \$142,497 appropriation through NCA 13-260 for their 2014 operating budget and seek approval to utilize the remaining funds from this to bring the kitchen in their community center up to code and install industrial kitchen equipment that they have already purchased.

Furthermore, it states that the bathrooms also need to be updated to fix plumbing issues and repair flooding that has already occurred.

- NCA 15-093 Amending NCA 13-260 (authorizing a special appropriation to GCIC for FY 2014 operating budget). Tiger sponsored the amendment, which was postponed for one month.

The legislation states that GCIC has \$91,813 left from the FY 2014 budget appropriation and requests the use of this money for renovations to their center rather than returning it to the tribal treasury as stated in the original appropriation.

- NCA 15-094 Authorizing a \$1,500 special appropriation to six Muscogee (Creek) youth. Jack and Yahola sponsored the legislation, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that Muscogee (Creek) citizens Kaelyn Roberts, Saidey Smith, Raydawn Osborn, Nakai Harjo, Inessa Pugh and Madison Factor play basketball on the 14-year-old and under Jeri’s Dream Team, which was named in honor of Jeri Culley who died of cancer two years ago.

It also states that the team won the Dog Soldiers 4 Jesus Christ Tournament in March and earned entry to the Inaugural All-Native AAU Tournament scheduled to be held on the Sioux Agency Village Reservation in Sisseton, South Dakota June 12-14.

Furthermore, it states that the total cost for the team to participate is approximately

\$5,350 and that the team has raised funds for the endeavor.

Finally, it states that the Muscogee (Creek) girls request \$350 each to participate in the tournament, that the coaches are confident that they will raise the remaining funds.

- NCA 15-095 Authorizing a \$250 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Jack and Yahola sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that 16-year-old Muscogee (Creek) citizen Kobe Smith seeks financial assistance for travel to Arkansas, Kansas, Texas, Missouri and Las Vegas to participate in tournaments with the OKC Premier AAU basketball team.

It also states that the total cost for participation is \$2,500 and that his family will raise the remaining amount.

- NCA 15-096 Authorizing a \$2,000 donation to Ryal Public School. Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that Ryal has an enrollment that consists of 53 out of 63 students being Muscogee (Creek) and that the school requested the amount listed to purchase computers.

- NCA 15-097 Authorizing a \$250 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Tiger and Hufft sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that eight-year-old Muscogee (Creek) citizen Drake DeVore’s mother Gina DeVore requested financial assistance to help cover the expenses for his baseball season, which total \$1,250.

- NCA 15-098 Authorizing a \$2,090.28 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) college student. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that Muscogee (Creek) citizen Layna Tarpalechee requests the amount listed to help fund her participation in the Loop Abroad program to travel to Thailand where she will get hands-on experience for her prospective career in exotic animal medicine with shelter dogs and cats, as well as elephants.

- NCA 15-099 Approving the budget of MCN DME LLC for the remainder of FY 2015 and providing for appropriations. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that the LLC needs \$225,268 in additional money other than that generated from existing business operations to fund their proposed budget, which is also attached for

approval.

- NCA 15-101 Authorizing a \$10,000 donation to the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts for the South Central Regional Meeting for the National Association of Conservation Districts. Randolph sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that the OACD’s mission is, ‘to provide leadership, resources and partnership opportunities for conservation districts and those who manage the land to enhance our natural resources for a better Oklahoma.’

It also states that each year, one of the member state organizations hosts a two-day conference and that OACD requested the amount listed to help cover the expenses for this year’s at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Catoosa.

Furthermore, it states that the MCN Natural Resource Conservation Commission supports the appropriation.

- NCA 15-102 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10 percent for the MCN Oil and Gas Department FY 2015 budget. Proctor sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that Oil and Gas wishes to make this modification in order to reallocate certain excess funds for other expenses.

- NCA 15-105 Authorizing a \$420 special appropriation to four Muscogee (Creek) youth. Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that Suzanne Hicks, mother of Muscogee (Creek) citizens Alyssa, Alayna, Kameron and Kon Berryhill requested financial assistance to help send them to Camp Fire Ablaze 2015 church camp in Queen City, Texas this summer.

- NCA 15-106 Amending NCA 14-158 (Approving the comprehensive annual budget for FY 2015 and providing for appropriations) as amended by NCA 15-058. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which was postponed for one month.

- NCA 15-107 Amending NCA 13-237 (Approving the CAB for FY 2014 and providing for appropriations) as amended by NCA 13-286. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which was postponed for one month.

- NCA 15-108 Authorizing a \$5,000 donation to the Okmulgee County Family YMCA ‘Give Grow Inspire’ annual campaign. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 13-2 with Coachman and Jack voting against it.

According to the Okmulgee YMCA site: their goal is to raise \$55,000 to support their Financial Assistance Program and for program development. For more information contact: 918-756-6677.

The legislation states that this campaign costs the organization 15 percent of their annual budget and that they’ve asked the Nation for assistance with said costs.

- NCA 15-109 Authorizing a \$320,000 supplemental appropriation for the MCN Department of Housing and addition to the force account to provide necessary maintenance and repairs to the Nation’s chartered community buildings. Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that MCN is responsible for maintenance and repairs of the Nation’s buildings and facilities being used by the chartered communities.

It also states that Housing and the MCN Department of Community Research and Development are willing to work together to establish procedures for completing work orders submitted by the communities and that Housing needs the amount listed to complete this.

- NCA 15-110 Authorizing a \$318,790 supplemental appropriation MCN CRD to provide necessary maintenance and repairs to provide necessary maintenance and repairs to the Nation’s chartered community buildings.

The legislation makes the same statement as the previous in regards to community building repairs and explains that basic work can be address by CRD while larger tasks would be addressed by Housing.

It also states that CRD needs additional money to facilitate all additional work orders as well as create a new position and provide equipment to assess and complete them.

- NCA 15-111 Authorizing a \$5,000 donation to sponsor the second annual Tulsa Charity Flight Night. Barnett and Hill sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that MCN sponsored the inaugural event last year, which raised \$361,000 for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education in schools.

- NCA 15-112 Authorizing a \$2,600 donation to the Muscogee-Seminole-Wichita Indian Baptist Association. Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that the organization is a nonprofit that funds its operations through

contributions from Muscogee Indian Baptist churches throughout the MCN jurisdiction.

It also states that the association’s annual meeting is in June and that they need an ice machine, which costs the amount listed.

- NCA 15-114 Authorizing a \$2,250 special appropriation to nine Muscogee (Creek) citizens. Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that Muscogee (Creek) citizen Kelly Lowe, a Sunday school teacher at Dustin First Baptist church, wishes to take Muscogee (Creek) citizens Micah Lowe, Kalil Lewis, Heather Pigeon, Jeremiah Boyles, TyJuan Boyles, Willard Cully, Starlah Cully and Kenzlie Thomas to Falls Creek church camp.

It also states that the total cost is \$3,200, that each citizen is eligible for \$250.

- NCA 15-115 Authorizing a \$1,014.98 to a Muscogee (Creek) college student. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 15-0.

The legislation states that Muscogee (Creek) citizen Sallye Countz has an opportunity to return to Anchorage, Ala., for an internship to train in the area of environmental health.

It also states that the internship is paid, which will take care of most of the estimated \$3,156.78 expenses and that she requests the amount in the bill to help with the rest.

The June Council regular session is scheduled June 20.

Typically, eligible entities who received appropriated funds and are not MCN tribal programs, departments or other subsidiaries, are required to submit receipts to the MCN Office of the Controller within 30 days after said funds are expended or approved.

The summary of each bill is attributed to the planning session or committee agendas available on: www.mcnnc.com, and the 2010 MCNCA available on the MCN District Court website at: www.muscogeeecreektribalcourt.org, both of which may have been amended.

It is also based on MNN: staff interpretation, research and interviews possible: on our production schedule, through our resources and based on our experience and ability.

For questions or more information contact the Council office at: 918-758-1410.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Tribal Events

'One Last Breath'



Submission
Wendy Fixico and her grandmother,
Lois Ellen Snyder.

A poem by: Wendy Fixico
Oklahoma Baptist University
nursing student

*In memory of my beautiful
grandmother, Lois Ellen Snyder
(June 23, 1926 - June 22, 2005)*

In the kitchen
A great gathering place
Table for three
KVOO on the radio
A lifetime of hard work seen
on both faces

Country view to the south
and to the east
The crisp morning air
Covered by a smoke filled
room
At breakfast
And again at noon
Water boiling on the stove

It's going to be one hot
summer day
Grandpa is on his way out
the door
The smoke filled room clears
After sometime

Grandma breaks out the
dough
Homemade is always best
Never again once she is laid
to rest

Complaints of heaviness on
her chest
Oxygen does not help much
anymore
The hospice nurse is miles
away
Breathing is beginning
to seem impossible
Family is near
Her only comfort

She will need her faith
And spiritual guidance
As she travels to that special
place

All those years as a
supporting wife
Not a single cigarette smoked
Though the leading cause of
taking her life

And her last breath

DAVID MORGAN

TULSA, Okla. — David Eugene Morgan, a resident of Henryetta passed away May 19, 2015 in Tulsa at the age of 58. He was born June 1, 1956 in Joliet, Ill., to Elmo Morgan Sr. and Rosetta Katie (Haynes) Morgan.

He worked for many years as a cook at Beacon Drive-In in Okmulgee and later for Coleman's Drive In, in Okmulgee.

He was a member of Big Cussetah Indian Methodist Church in the Prairie Bell area.

He is preceded in death by his: father, Elmo Morgan Sr. and a brother, Glen Morgan.

He is survived by his: mother, Rosetta Haynes Morgan of Henryetta; brothers, Elmo Morgan Jr. and wife, Rebecca of Sapulpa, James Morgan and wife, Yvonne of Okmulgee and Bud Morgan of Oklahoma City; sisters, Ruthie Morgan Grimes of Tulsa, Trisha Major and husband, David

of Mesquite, Texas, Diane Morgan and husband, Elliott Walker of Henryetta, Betty Williams and husband, Phillip of Arlington, Texas and Mary Morgan of Tulsa as well as a host of nieces, nephews, friends and other relatives.

Funeral Services are set for May 23 at Big Cussetah Indian Methodist Church. Interment will be in Big Cussetah Church Cemetery under direction of Integrity Funeral Service.

JOHN PUMPHREY



OKMULGEE, Okla. — John Alan Pumphrey (Johnny) Born May 27, 1966 departed this world March 19, 2015 to begin a new life in his heavenly home.

He was of the Deer Clan and was very proud of his Indian heritage.

As a young boy, he spent many summers with his Grandma Pumphrey.

He loved getting up early to a big country breakfast and afterwards going to work in her garden. The highlight of their time together was in the kitchen cooking, canning, making jelly and rolling out pie dough to the tune of 'Go Tell Aunt Gertie The Old Gray Goose is Dead.' She loved teaching him to cook and to roll out pie dough. This created a great desire for him to become a Chef. It also taught him a great respect and love for older people.

After Johnny graduated from Moore High School, he attended the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y. When he returned home he worked as a chef at Legend's Restaurant in Norman for many years. Later he decided to travel and had many adventures as a Chef.

He worked as a chef on the luxury train The American Orient Express. He loved his job. He traveled all over the United States and saw a lot of beautiful country. He met people from all over the world. He loved visiting with them. He would laugh and say they were mostly 'blue hairs' BUT that was the age group that Johnny dearly loved. He found older people had so many interesting life experiences and stories to talk about, something the younger generations will never know or experience.

Johnny worked various jobs as a chef and sons chef. He worked in Mackinac Island, Mich., Oregon, California and Hawaii. One of his biggest adventures was when he took a government job in Antarctica cooking for the military and scientists.

Johnny dearly loved his family and friends. He never forgot a face. He loved talking old times, University of Oklahoma football and telling stories from his traveling/work experiences. He had a big heart and would go out of his way to help others (mostly the elderly). He talked almost

daily with his aunts, Claudine, Deane, Linda, Norma, Uncle Alex, Don James and cousins, David Warner and Sharla Chapel. (Sharla won him to the Lord over the phone.)

Johnny's jovial personality, his big smile and his generosity for helping others will always be remembered. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Johnny is survived by his: parents John and Carolyn; sister, Janet and Tommy Hand as well as several aunts, uncles and cousins.

Services were set for May 24 at the Wilmont Place Baptist Church in Oklahoma City with Rev. Danny Frazee and Tyler McDowell officiating. Johnny was laid to rest beside his grandparents in the Oakwood Cemetery in Wewoka.

APOLOGY

I want to say I'm sorry to Muscogee Nation Business Enterprise and Creek Nation Travel Plaza for stealing cigarette's from the storeroom while I worked there. I know it was wrong and I shouldn't have done it. I deserve the punishment that I got in court and I hope to learn from this incident. I hope that you will forgive me.

— Donald R. Lang Jr.

GOSPEL SINGING SET FOR JUNE 6

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Okmulgee First Indian Baptist Church has set a gospel singing for 2 p.m., June 6 at 1700 W. Eu-
faula in Okmulgee.

Concessions will be available and please bring lawn chairs.

For more information contact Freddie Lowe: 918-843-2265.

150 YEAR CHURCH ANNIVERSARY JUNE 13

OKFUSKEE, Okla. — Okfuskee Baptist Church has set a June 13 celebration for their 150th anniversary.

Set up is at 9 a.m. and the program starts at 10 a.m. If you are able, please bring a covered dish to share for lunch.

For more information call Pastor Carr at: 918-926-0651.

CHURCH CENTENNIAL SET FOR JUNE 13

OKFUSKEE, Okla. — Hutche Chuppa Indian Baptist Church has set a centennial church celebration for June 13 starting at 11 a.m.

Dinner will be served after the event.



FAMILY REUNION SET FOR JUNE 20

WETUMKA, Okla. — A family reunion for the descendants of Nehar and Sallie Yahola has been set for June 20 at Salt Creek United Methodist Church starting at 10 a.m.

Everyone is welcome and please bring a potluck dish for lunch.

BENEFIT POWWOW SET FOR JUNE 20

MUSKOGEE, Okla. — The fourth annual Murrow Indian Children's Home Benefit Powow is set for June 20 at the Bacone College student life center, 2414 E. Shawnee Bypass in Muskogee.

Activities will include: gourd dances, 50/50, raffles, a cake walk and silent auctions.

All drums, royalties and dancers are invited.

For event information call: 918-682-2586. For vendor information call: 918-616-4577.

CMCA GATHERING SET FOR AUG. 1

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — The annual California Muscogee (Creek) Association has set an annual gathering for Aug. 1 at Sherman Indian High School, 9010 Magnolia, Ave, Riverside CA, 92503.

For more information contact Jeanna Spirou at: 209-518-3554 or jeannars@yahoo.com.

Mvskoke Language Preservation Program puzzle

Cuko Hvmecvlke — Family members

ERKE - Father	ERKUCE - Uncle (Paternal)
ECKE - Mother	ECKUCE - Aunt (of a female)
ECUSTE - Daughter	EPUSE - Aunt (of a male)
EPPUCE - Son	ENAHVMKVLKE - Cousin/kinfolk
EPUCA - Grandfather	CUKO HVMECVLKE - Family
EPUSE - Grandmother	ENCUKOTEKV
ECUSE - Sister	CEPANE - Boy
ECERWV - Brother	HOKTUCE - Girl
EPAUWV - Uncle (Maternal)	HOKTE - Woman
	HUNVNWV - Man
	ESTE - Person

U V E E P P U C A O K E T O K U C N E U

C W E P E E K L V K M V H A N E H K C H

E U L E E C E T A C E N S U C N L E S W

C A V C K E N A H V M K V E E V V C K P

E P N U H P W H O K T E E S C P E U L E

E E V S U C E E A C U P E E C S P T E K

U M C E O T U I E A P E M E U E C E E T

H K V U S K N T P E E V O P I C U K C E

U E R U E A S R N T H C E V T E P U S K

N E C E P E E A S O E V E W E U P P E C

V E C E E C P O K E H V C R H V N W V M

N C C O E E C U A O W K U E O K E K W E

W C T V C E C K E O K N K C R E E U C E

V C E E E C K U C E A A R E C T C E E E

V P E E C U P P E P V U I E O O U C N K

C R E R K E C E E E H O K K W K T K E N

H E O U S N H C H A K T U C E U K U E C

E C E R W E R K U C E C T E K C O C U C

K R I P U S E E E W N A W E C E H C E U

U K V U T K C P E E K N E K U N E O E C

The Muscogee Nation News congratulates 2015 MCN graduates



Jacob Daniel Ahtone

School: Tulsa Community College
Parents: Jo Ahtone and Francis Lewis and the late Howard Ahtone
Degree: Associate degree in pre-medical imaging, radiography
Clan: Wotko
Church: Saint Bernard, Tulsa
Ceremonial Ground: Muddy Waters



He was accepted to the University of Oklahoma radiography program, which begins June 1. It is a highly competitive program that accepts only eight students each year. Future plans are to work at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation hospital or clinics.

Larie Renee Amos

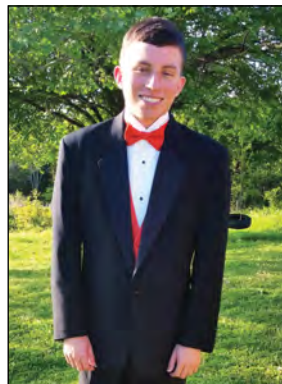
School: Westmoore High School in Oklahoma City
Parents: Billy and Tina Amos
Clan: Bear
Church: Victory Baptist Church
Tribal Town: Kialegee
Ceremonial Ground: Helvpe Kanite (Hillabee Canadian)



Larie has maintained a 3.85 GPA throughout high school, and a member of the National Honor Society and Oklahoma Indian Student Honor Society. Larie is a student leader in the Awana Club at Victory Baptist Church. Larie has been active in competitive athletics for Westmoore High School, receiving four varsity letters in fast-pitch and three in slow-pitch softball. She has received numerous awards for All-District, All-Conference and All-State as a pitcher. In the fall, she will attend Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford on a softball and academic scholarship.

Hunter R. Arnold

School: Okmulgee High School
Parents: Brian and Lisa Arnold



While in high school Hunter was a member of 'The Showpiece' of Okmulgee and 'Pride of The Muscogee Nation' Marching Bands. Other activities include: student council, leadership, student of the month, and Johnson O'Malley.

His family includes: sister, Emilee; paternal grandparents, Delphia and the late Leroy Arnold and maternal grandparents, Etta and the late Everett Checotah. He will attend Oklahoma State University in the fall to pursue a degree in computer engineering.

Christyn Barnett

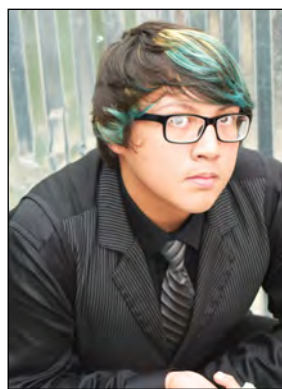
School: Okmulgee High School
Parents: Diana Beasley and Acee Barnett
Clan: Bird
Tribal Town: Nuyaka
Church: Big Cussetah Methodist Church



Slow-pitch softball defensive player of the year in 2014, superintendent honor roll.

Tyler Billiot

School: Coweta High School
Parents: Kenneth and Shelly Billiot
Clan: Wind
Church: Springtown UMC



Four-year member of the Coweta Tiger Pride Band, with four State Championships. The 4A-5A OBA Grand Champions for 2014-2015 and 2011-2012. They also competed for the first time at the Bands of America Competition in St. Louis, Mo., in 2013. Tyler has received numerous art awards at local and state competitions. He currently attends Indian Capital Technology Center in Muskogee. Tyler will complete the graphic communications program in the Spring of 2016. His grandparents are Louvina Frank and the late Newman Frank Sr. and the late Harold and Eunice Billiot.

MacKenzie Lane Cusher-Burton

School: Okmulgee High School
Parents: Cindy and Scott Smith and Brett Burton
Clan: Wind
Tribal Town: Nuyaka
Church: Newtown United Methodist



MacKenzie participated in sports all through middle and high school, which included football, baseball and wrestling. He was a member of the band for five years and was on the honor roll, letter 'O' recipient, homecoming escort in 2015, two-year concurrent Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology, Okmulgee student.

His plans are to attend OSUIT for an associates degree then transfer to a four-year college for a bachelor's degree to become a coach. His grandparents are Linda Cusher, Corneal Cusher and Rita and Larry Burton.

Shalonda Colbert

School: Bristow High School
Parents: Valencia Bigpond and Paul Colbert
Clan: Wind
Church: Rogers Chapel Baptist Church



Maranda Rachelle Coon

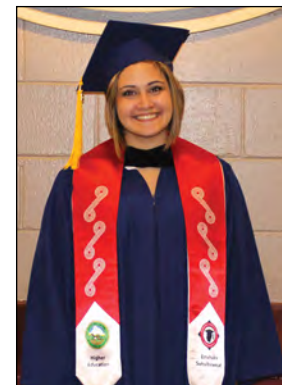
School: Mason High School in Mason
Parents: Timothy and Brenda Coon
Clan: Beaver
Tribal Town: New Tulsa
Church: Buckeye Creek Baptist Church, I.X.L., Okla.



Senior class president and Wes Watkins Technology Center Multimedia Specialist Certificate

Samantha Rae Davis

School: Southern Union State Community College
Parents: Jackie Owens and Josh Owens
Degree: Associates of Science
Awards/Accomplishments: Graduated with highest honors
Tribal Town: Tukvptce



Destiny Dawn Dunn

School: Morris High School
Parents: Lisa Harris and George Dunn Jr.
Clan: Bear
Church: Union Baptist Church



Destiny has participated in basketball and Track for four years. She is the senior class secretary and a member of the Morris Indian Community. She is currently an honor roll student and is a 2015 Johnson O'Malley academic incentive award recipient. She plans to attend the University of Central Oklahoma in the fall.

Dayton Ellen

School: Checotah High School
Parents: Shannon and Brian Proctor
Church: First Freewill Baptist in Checotah
Clan: Bear
Ceremonial Ground: Weogufkee

He has attended Checotah schools since kindergarten. He participated in the Johnson O'Malley Challenge Bowl for 10 years and was the recipient of the Belvin Hill Senior Scholarship. Dayton has also received a Native American Art Scholarship, JOM Academic Incentive Scholarship, and CHS Art Scholarship. Dayton has been active in many sports including, baseball, football, wrestling and basketball. Dayton received a medal for Heartland Conference All-Star in 2014-2015. Dayton was also nominated to play in Indian All-State basketball.

Dayton graduated May 22 and will attend Northeastern State University in the fall to major in business.



Cynda Gayle Factor

School: Sasakwa High School/Ponotoc Vo Tech
Parents: George Factor and Sharon Yargee
Degree: Diploma/Cosmetology
Ceremonial Ground: Sand Creek (Euchee ground)
Clan: Eco

Honor roll, student council, Class A state champion in 400 meter track, Class B all-state basketball, Indian all-state, Vype second team, 135 rebounds with a 5.2 average — 92 assists with a 3.5 average — 171 steals with a 6.6 average — 61 percent field goals — 600 points total this season with 23.1 points per game average — 1557 total career points — Little River Conference MVP, leading scorer in Class B.

Fifth in final State Oklahoma Federation of Indian Women Awards, Nancy Tsoodle Outstanding American Indian Female student, LR all-conference for three years in basketball, LR all-conference in softball, Class A state track 100 meters placing sixth, most points scored at area tournament with 36. She plans to attend Carl Albert College in Poteau.



Kaitlyn Danielle Factor

School: Weleetka High School
Parents: Daniel and Ellie Factor
Clan: Eco
Tribal Town: Weogufkee
Church: Nuyaka Indian Baptist



Michael A. Factor Jr.

School: Tahlequah High School
Parents: Michael Factor and Clarissa Wallace
Ceremonial Ground: Kellyville

He is the grandson of Ester Factor and the late Mickey Factor.

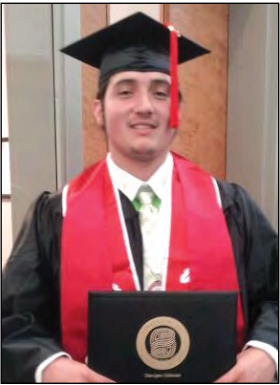


Michael Yahv Fish

School: College of the Muscogee Nation
Parents: Jimsey Fish and Lynnelle Roberts
Degree: Associate in Science-tribal services
Clan: Bear
Tribal Town: Tvlwv Rakko
Church: Glorieta Baptist Church

He is an American Indian College Fund recipient. He played basketball for the Ravens and participated in many intramural games/leagues. He plans on continuing his education by obtaining an electrical construction degree from the Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology.

His grandparents are Mitchell and Lydia 'Jimmie' Fish and Terry 'Skip' Roberts and Mona 'Koko' Lowe.



Myriah Givens

School: Saugus High School in Saugus, Calif.
Parents: Martin and Diane Givens of Santa Clarita, Calif.
Clan: Wind
Church: Myriah's grandparents are members of the Salt Creek Baptist Church in Wetumka

She is the granddaughter of William Givens of Glendale, Calif., and Imogene Letka of Squim, Wash. Myriah's desire is to further her education in the medical field.



Cheyenne Chenoa Hale

School: Norman North High School
Parents: Brent and Monica Hale
Degree: General Studies
Clan: Deer
Tribal Town: Tuckabatchee
Church: Norman First Methodist

She received the 'Best Defensive Player' award for volleyball. She sustained a 3.7 GPA and took concurrent college classes at the University of Oklahoma and made As in four out of four classes. She graduated in the top 25 percent of her class.



Sandra Elaine Harjo

School: Rogers State University
Parents: Tim Harjo and the late Christine Harjo
Degree: Associates of Applied Science in nursing (RN)
Clan: Raccoon
Tribal Town: Kialegee
Church: Weogufkee
Ceremonial Ground: Peach

Sandra is the granddaughter of Addie Simpson and the great-granddaughter of Minnie (Davis) and George Simpson of Hanna. She plans to attend RSU in Spring 2016 to continue her nursing education.



Tyler Ashton Harp

School: Glenpool High School
Parents: William Harp of Jenks and the late Shannon Jones-Harp

In addition to high school courses, Tyler also attended Tulsa Tech holding a 3.9 GPA in health science/sports medicine and was concurrently enrolled in related classes at Tulsa Community College where she was recognized on the president's honor roll with a 4.0 GPA.

With great honor, the family of Tyler Ashton Harp announces her May 18 graduation. Her grandparents are Diane and the late Bill Jones of Glenpool, Ray and Sandy Harp of Sand Springs and her great-grandparents are the late Elmer and Mahaley Jones of Okmulgee.

Tyler plans to continue classes in health science at Tulsa Community College, before transferring to the University of Oklahoma in Norman to achieve her goal of becoming a state licensed physical therapist. Reach for the moon Tyler; swing on a star. Believe in the fabulous person you are!



Alyssa Janeen Harper

School: University of Central Oklahoma
Parents: Loy and Diane Thomas of Okmulgee
Degree: Bachelor of Science in forensic science, Bachelor of Arts in psychology with a minor in sociology
Clan: Raccoon
Tribal Town: Wewoka

Alyssa Harper completed dual bachelor's degree while balancing the responsibilities of a mother, wife and student. Other honors in past semesters include: MBCI Scholarship, Main Street Youth Program, dean's honor roll, a member of the Student Academy of Forensic Science, Psi Chi and a American Psychological Association Student Affiliate member.

Alyssa is married to Lee Harper, mother to Alex and her grandparents were the late Albert and Bernice Thomas of Okmulgee and Lisette John of Carthage, Miss.



Gabriel Thompson Hicks

School: Jenks High School
Clan: Deer
Tribal Town: Okfuskee
Church: Buckeye Creek Baptist where he was baptized by Rev. Wayne Harjo

He is a member of the National Technical Honor Society.



Daniel Colton Holland

School: Lone Star High School in Frisco, Texas
Parents: John and Kristi (Herndon) Holland
Clan: Raccoon
Tribal Town: Eufaula Canadian

He is a member of the National Honor Society. Colton has competed and placed in Academic Decathlon and Computer Science competition. He has a 4.5 GPA. Colton was on both the varsity baseball and varsity wrestling teams for his high school. Colton is the son of John and Kristi (Herndon) Holland, grandson of Soon Ja Ahn of Los Angeles and the late Dr. Robert Holland of Davis. His maternal grandparents are Samarian (Scott) and the late Edward W. Herndon of Shawnee. Colton is the great-grandson of the late Susie (Cosar) and Bennie B. Scott of Eufaula.

He will be attending Oklahoma State University in the fall to major in computer science.



Steven Christopher Hollier

School: University of Phoenix, South Field, Mich.
Parents: Warren and Joan Hollier
Degree: Bachelor of Science in human services
Tribal Town: Thlopthlocco
Clan: Wind

He has maintained a 3.93 GPA and is the charter president of the Human Services Honor Society - Tau Upsilon Alpha, Chi Delta chapter. Steven currently works for Health Management Services of America with their gambling hotline where he counsels individuals over the phone and Internet with gambling related problems. He also does follow-up and works with processing of billing and claims. He has received honors for going beyond the call of his job requirements and has received commendation for his willingness to exceed the agency's expectations. His client feedback attests to his ability to work well with his clients to help them receive excellent professional assistance. He is also a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. at Michigan State University.

His sister is Nicole and grandmother is Marcelle C. Adams Douglas.



Elijah James Hooper

School: Sapulpa High Bartlett Academy
Parents: Sonya and Donald Squire and Walter Hooper
Clan: Wind
Church: Covenant Harvest Ministries in Sapulpa where he is a member of the praise and worship teams and plays drums, guitar and bass.
Ceremonial Ground: Sand Creek

Student of the month, Excellence in Academics awards: Oklahoma history, world history and science. He plans to attend Sapulpa Central Vo-Tech to study in the medical field. His grandparents are: the late Jessie and Rosella Hooper of Tahlequah; Betty and Alan Pulver of Sapulpa and his late grandfather, Daniel Foster of Kellyville.



Pfc. Tanner Hughes

School: Graduated from U.S. Marine Corps boot camp in San Diego, Calif., in August and is a 2014 graduate of Pryor High School
Parents: Shawn and Mary Hughes of Pryor
Clan: Raccoon

He is the brother Haley Hughes of Pryor, grandson of Buddy and Linda Hughes of Chouteau, Margaret Edwards of Pryor and Larry and Cindy Blackwell of McAllen, Texas. He is the great-grandson of Estelle Hughes and the late George Hughes of Eufaula.



Ryan Wesley Johnson

School: Eastern Michigan University
Parents: Gina Douglas and Raymond Johnson
Clan: Wind
Tribal Town: Thlopthlocco

Ryan was a member of the Honors College at Eastern and graduated Cum Laude. While attending Eastern, Ryan was an active member of the University Mock Trial Team, where he won multiple awards. Ryan is an avid golfer and also enjoys playing tennis. He plans to pursue a degree in law.



Jeremy Hunter Jones, Lum Hee Chattee

School: Santa Fe College, Gainesville, Fla.
Parents: Kenneth Conchattee and Karen Jones
Degree: Associate of Arts in art studio, graphic design support and graphic design production and an Associate of Science in graphic design

On the dean's list three times and created the tower logo used by the school to announce the school being number one in the nation. He is the grandson of Clark and Joye Fixico-Jones and great-grandson of Wallace and Flora-Burgess Fixico.



Gabriel Tarpalechee Long

School: Graduated from U.S. Marine Corps boot camp Nov. 11, 2014 in San Diego, Calif.
Parents: Taylor Long of Casa Grande, Ariz., and Dawn Noggle of Phoenix
Clan: Beaver
Tribal Town/Church/Ceremonial Ground: Big Cussetah in Morris

Gabriel completed the school of infantry and is now stationed at U.S. Marine Corps base Camp Pendleton in Southern California. He chose to serve and was chosen to serve. Gabriel is following a Marine Corps family tradition started by his grandfather Rev. Harry Long. Gabriel's great-aunt says of attending her family member's graduation, 'a lot of relatives have stood on those yellow foot prints and marched on those parade grounds.'

Gabriel also follows many uncles, aunts, and cousins by entering into the military. I am proud of Gabriel and also concerned and ask for support and prayers for Gabe. Please give support to Gabe if you should meet him. Mvto.



Jessica Michelle Lopez

School: Central Texas College, Fort Hood, Texas
Parents: Jemona Sulphur
Degree: Associate in business administration
Clan: Beaver
Ceremonial Ground: Greenleaf

Congratulations to Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jessica Michelle Lopez! She is the wife of SPC Genaro Lopez and mother of Daveon 'Cuntv,' Darian, Dallen Hill and Graciela Lopez. She is the great-granddaughter of Joe Sulphur and the peacefully laid, Alice Marie Reeder (Johnson). All of her family and friends wish her the best on her next journey to Fort Wainwright, Alaska.



Scott Steven McCoy

School: William R. Boone High School, Orlando, Fla.
Parents: Steven and Pam McCoy Orlando, Fla.
Clan: Deer
Tribal Town: Thlopthlocco

Church: Discovery Church of Orlando where he has been a student leader in his youth group and served on mission trips to the Dominican Republic

He is a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship winner, member of National Honor Society with a 4.1 GPA and has volunteered for over 100 hours of community service in the Orlando area.

His paternal grandparents are Jean Webb of Norman and the late Frank 'Coley' McCoy of Wetumka. His maternal grandparents are Lorraine Doroba of Hoffman Estates, Ill., and the late Frank Doroba. He will be attending Florida State University in Tallahassee, Fla., in the fall.



Annie M. Merritt

School: Seminole State College
Parents: Charles and Carol Taylor
Degree: Associate of Arts in behavioral sciences
Clan: Aktvyahcvlke
Tribal Town: Alabama-Quassarte
Church: Montesoma Indian Baptist
Ceremonial Ground: Alabama



Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, nominated for the 2015 edition of ‘Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges

Pvt. Brandon Lee Mitchell

School: Gradated May 8 from U.S. Marine Corps basic training at Camp Pendleton, San Diego, Calif.
Parents: Christopher A. Mitchell of Ponca City and Jenifer Burson Mitchell of Peggs
Clan: Bear
Church: Hillabee Baptist in Hanna
Ceremonial Ground: Alabama



Brandon will be stationed in Florida. His paternal grandparents are Minnie and Wayne Wauqua, of Holdenville and the late Frank Mitchell, and great-grandparents are the late Samuel Scott and Mandy Brown Scott and the late Sam Parnoske Mitchell and Eliza Gough Mitchell.

John L. Moore Jr.

School: Frances Tuttle Technology Center, Oklahoma City
Parents: Claudette Robertson of Oklahoma City and John Moore of Northern California
Degree: Certificate in 3D Modeling



John graduated from Frances Tuttle with a 3.9 GPA and he won second place in the Individual Category at the March 2015 Oklahoma Business and Professional Academy competition in 3D Modeling. John is currently seeking a position in the field of 3D computer modeling/animation and multimedia arts. He won national first place for 3D modeling at the Business and Professional Academy 2015 Conference in Anaheim, Calif.

John received financial support from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Education during his years at California State University at Fresno where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in fine arts, and during the past year as a student at Frances Tuttle.

John is direct descendant of Colonel William Robison, the great-grandson of the late Joe Robison of Weleetka and grandson of the late Zelma Robison.

Patrick O’Brien

School: Okmulgee High School
Parents: Tami and Rodney Humphrey, Sean and Barbara O’Brien
Clan: Tiger
Tribal Town: Koweta
Church: First Baptist Church in Okmulgee



Patrick is one of Okmulgee’s salutatorians, senior class president, vice-president of the National Honor Society and received the Academic Letter ‘O’ Award.

He was in band for seven years and was drum major for the Okmulgee High School Band his junior year. Patrick made the Eastern Oklahoma Honor Band, Eastern District Honor Band, Okmulgee County Honor Band and received a superior rating on a Snare Drum Solo. He has also participated in cross-country, track, wrestling, tennis and leadership.

He is the grandson of Don and Jona Rade, Mike and Beverly O’Brien and great-grandson of Ginger O’Brien. Patrick plans on attending the University of Arkansas in Fort Smith, Ark., to major in psychology.

Shawn Bradley Ogle

School: University of Oklahoma
Parents: Linda Youmans Ogle and the late Rick Ogle of McLoud
Degree: Bachelor of Science in health and exercise science with a minor in Native American studies
Clan: Beaver Clan
Tribal Town: New Tulsa



Shawn was in the transfer leadership class of OU, a member of Phi Theta Kappa, Who’s Who Among American Universities and Colleges and the Native American Students Association. He played goalkeeper for the OU men’s soccer team. He is currently working as a recruiter for Rose State College and is the goalkeeper coach for the Rose State soccer teams. His grandparents are Rechinta Youmans and the late Gene Youmans of Holdenville and the late Leon Ogle and Yolanda Vargas Hook of Choctaw.

Maggie Lynn Pembroke

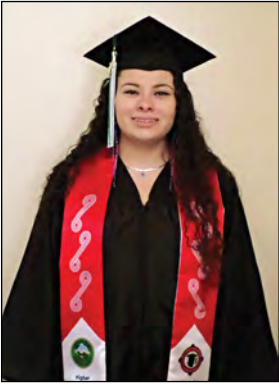
School: Broken Arrow High School, Broken Arrow
Parents: Tammy and Albert Pembroke
Tribal Town: Koweta
Clan: Wind



A 12-year student of Broken Arrow Public Schools, four year student athletic trainer (captain) of Broken Arrow Varsity Football, wrestling, cheer, track and baseball, two-time athletic trainer ‘Veteran VIP’ award recipient in 2013 and 2015, sports medicine attendant Homecoming Court from 2014-2015, National Honor Society top 12 percent, COLABASH Council, Athletic Leadership Conference, Native American Student Association, Johnson O’Malley Program, peer tutoring, FCCLA Club, FCA, accepted into The University of Oklahoma for the fall 2015 semester. Her brother is Trent Pembroke, sister is Hally Pembroke and her grandparents are Fern and Arthur Kerr, Elresa Pembroke and the late Orvin Pembroke of Broken Arrow.

Ariana Manuela Perryman

School: Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill, Calif.
Parents: Rene Perryman
Degree: Associate of Arts in sociology
Tribal Town: Locherpokar



Isabella Esther Choi Perryman

School: Emerald Ridge High School in Puyallup, Wash.
Parents: Dario Tonihka Perryman and Julia Perryman
Tribal Town: Locherpokar



Honors Award for Arts and Communication in Video Production for all four years of high school.

Keisha D. Postoak

School: Eufaula High School
Parents: Great-granddaughter of Sue Bumgarner
Clan: Deer
Tribal Town: Tuskegee
Church: New Arbor Indian Baptist



Marissa RiAnn Proctor

School: Checotah High School
Parents: Marva Jackson and Brian Proctor
Clan: Bird
Tribal Town: Big Cussetah
Church: Freewill Baptist
Ceremonial Ground: Hillabee and Greenleaf



She maintains a 3.1 GPA and was selected to be a page at the Oklahoma State Capitol. She also made all-conference in basketball for McIntosh County. She will be attending the College of Muscogee Nation for Native American studies and plans on traveling to teach Native American ways.

Kayla Tristin Pullen

School: Plainview High School in Ardmore
Parents: Rhonda and Howard Allen of Ardmore and Joseph and Denise Pullen of Ardmore
Clan: Raccoon
Tribal Town: Yufalv Kenete

Kayla has an amazing ability in the visual arts and works hard to cultivate her talent. Kayla is an active member of the art club and has a long list of art honors/awards, community and leadership services.

The following are only a few of her numerous accomplishments: Scholastic Art and Writing Gold Key Award, Young Talent of Oklahoma Recipient, National Art Honor Society, first place Art Portfolio at College Area Curriculum Competition, first place in Figure Drawing at College Area Curriculum Competition and fifth place in Drawing at State Competition.

Upon graduation, Kayla will attend Murray State College to major in art.

Pauline Raquel Randall

School: Union Public School in Tulsa
Parents: Father the late Clifton Randall; mother, Sandra and Mark Bible
Clan: Bird
Tribal Town: Koweta
Church: Haikey Chapel United Methodist Church

Her paternal grandparents are Bruce and Lettie Randall, and Ethleen Harry. Her maternal grandparents are Sam and Rose Chisholm. Her siblings are Jason Goins, Mark Bible Jr., Andy Bible, Ryan Bible and Correna Bible.

Adobe Illustrator CS6 certificate, visual graphics and design certificate, National Technical Honor Society for two years, director's honor roll for two years, Johnson O'Malley Program participant, Community Services for Haikey Chapel United Methodist Church, Summer Youth Program Employment Program for Muscogee (Creek) Nation, accepted to College of the Muscogee Nation where she will major in tribal services/business.

Pauline enjoys camping, swimming, playing, video games and traveling.

Justin Lee Rhinehart

School: Wetumka High School
Parents: Justina Givens
Clan: Wotko
Tribal Town: Kialegee
Church: Sand Creek Baptist Church

Football for four years, Class B All-District lineman in 2014, state weightlifting champs from 2013-2014, national scholar/athlete award in 2015, 11 man all star football for 2014-2015, principal honor roll in 2015, track for one year and baseball for one year. His grandparents are Ben and Martha Givens.

Joshua Taylor Roberts

School: College of the Muscogee Nation
Parents: Sharon Yargee and Kendall Roberts
Degree: Associate
Clan: Eco
Tribal Town: Alabama Quassarte
Ceremonial Ground: Sand Creek (Euchee ground)

Amanda Rutland

School: Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology
Parents: David (deceased) and Joyce Mitchell
Degree: Associate of Applied Science in photography technology
Clan: Wotko (Raccoon)
Tribal Town: Weogufkee
Church: Tulmochussee Baptist Church

Taylor Renee Scott

School: Southwestern Oklahoma State University
Degree: Bachelor degree in communication arts
Parents: Sunny Baldrige and Reggy Scott
Tribal Town: Okfuskee
Clan: Bear
Awards: Dean's Honor Roll, Great American Conference Academic Award
Accomplishments: Member of the SWOSU Cross Country team

Thank you to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation for supporting me during my college career and for helping me pursue my goals. For the future, I plan to discover a job I enjoy.

Briana Jo-Jean Smith

School: Mason High School
Parents: Jason and Lorena Smith
Clan: Alligator
Tribal Town: Fish Pond
Church: Prairie Springs Indian Baptist
Ceremonial Ground: Okfuskee

Certified nurse assistant, home health assistant from WWTC and she plans to attend Seminole State College to become a registered nurse.

Jade Stallings

School: Okmulgee High School/Green Country Vo-Tech
Parents: Justina Grayson and Justin Stallings
Degree: Diploma/CNA License
Clan: Bird
Tribal Town: Nuyaka
Church: Big Cussetah Methodist Church in Morris

Jade has been on the principal honor roll all four years of high school. She is also on the National Honor Society and is student council secretary. She enjoys playing softball and has been on varsity sports for four years along with receiving the 2013 Fast Pitch Defensive Player of the Year with Okmulgee High School.

Jade was born in Okmulgee and is an enrolled Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Her maternal grandparents are Cheryl Grayson and the late Tommy Grayson and paternal grandparents are Joyce Stallings and the late Adam Stallings. She attended Twin Hills School from kindergarten through eighth grade and Okmulgee High School beginning with her freshman year. After high school she plans to attend Oklahoma State University in Stillwater where she will pursue her nursing degree.

Alicia Marie Sternback

School: Centralia Community College, Washington State
Parents: Gary and Tina Sternback
Degree: Associate in Arts
Church: Rochester Life Assembly of God where she is involved with outreach to a local nursing home and leads worship for the youth group.
Clan: Bird
Tribal Town: Okfuskee

Alicia is on the president's list at the college for having a 3.9-4.0 GPA. She was also selected to receive an Muscogee (Creek) Nation Higher Education Tribal Funds Grant.

Emily R. Sternback

School: South Puget Sound Community College in Washington State
Parents: Gary and Tina Sternback
Degree: Associate of Arts
Clan: Bird
Tribal Town: Okfuskee

Evan Colin Tansey

School: Oklahoma Baptist University
Parents: Mark and Lula Tansey
Degree: Theatre and Communications Studies
Clan: Deer
Tribal Town: Weogufkee
Church: Weogufkee Indian Baptist

Outstanding Theater Student Award 2015, Most Valuable Theatre Student 2013/2015, Member and Officer of National Theatre Honor Society Alpha Psi Omega.

Member of National Communication Association Lambda Pi Eta, Excellence of Management at Kennedy Center of American College Theatre Festival Region VI 2015, Excellence of Design at Kennedy Center of American College Theatre Festival Region VI 2014.

Travis Dean Wallace Jr.

School: Weleetka Public Schools where he has attended since Head Start
Parents: Travis and Angie Wallace of Weleetka and Shannon Neal of Oklahoma City
Clan: Wind
Tribal Town: Alabama

While attending school, Travis had been an active member of the Weleetka FFA Chapter, archery and skeet teams and received numerous awards in all of those endeavors. He also lettered in track for four years and was in the Johnson O'Malley and Gifted and Talented Programs.

His future plans include working in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Summer Youth Employment Program for the summer, and attending the Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology in Okmulgee in the fall.

He plans to get his basics there and then pursue a career in physical therapy.

Joe Don Waters Jr.

School: Owasso High School
Parents: Kim Waters and the late Joe Don Waters Sr.
Clan: Fox
Tribal Town: Kvsetv
Church: Big Cussetah United Methodist Church
Ceremonial Ground: Kvsetv (inactive)

Tulsa Technology Center two-year completion certificate, Gold ServSafe certificate and honor roll. He is the grandson of Pete and Joanna Coser and great-grandson of the late George and Stella Coser Sr.



Bobbi Welch

School: College of the Muscogee Nation
Parents: Dean and Lorrie Welch
Degree: Tribal services and Mvskoke language certificate
Clan: Wind
Tribal Town: Alabama



Cheyenne Marie Williams

School: Choctaw High School
Parent: John Williams
Grandparent: Joy Spocogee
Clan: Deer
Tribal Town: Coushatta

Cheyenne has been accepted to the University of Oklahoma, Colorado State University and Rose State College.



Andye Micaela Wolfe

School: Holdenville High School
Parents: Alex Michelle Wolfe of Okmulgee and Arnold Meely of Holdenville
Clan: Wind
Tribal Town: Cussetah
Church: Big Cussetah United Methodist
Ceremonial Ground: Arbeka

She is the older sister of Toby and Katherine Meely of Okmulgee; granddaughter of Janice Bailey; great-granddaughter of Dorothy Pinezaddleby, both of Okmulgee and the granddaughter of the late Edward Bailey and Alex Pete Wolfe. She is a Muscogee (Creek) citizen but also of the Seminole, Ponca and Kiowa tribes of Oklahoma, respectively. While in high school, Andye attended Wes Watkins Technology Center and was involved in Skills USA. She participated in the service careers of maintenance, plumbing and carpentry where she placed at the district and state levels. She was the historian for Skills USA during her junior and senior years. Andye plans to attend the College of the Muscogee Nation in the fall of 2015 to major in police science.



Monica Inez Zamora

School: Western University of Health Sciences
Parents: Lewis and Esperanza Zamora
Degree: Doctor of veterinary medicine
Clan: Alligator
Tribal Town: Coweta

Her grandmother is Abbie Berryhill and her great-grandparents are Celia Freeman Berryhill and Harrison Berryhill.

